



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Governor's Advisory Board for Veterans Affairs

January 29, 2016

Agenda



- Cemeteries/Burial Honors
- Nursing Facilities
- Legislative Agenda
- Homeless Program
- Women Veteran Program
- News & 2015 Upcoming Events

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West

Opened March 1, 2004

As of December 2015

Interments:

Veterans 2,333

Dependents 823

Total 3,156

Cremated 842



Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central

Opened June 1, 2007

As of December 2015

Interments:

Veterans	3,511
Dependents	<u>778</u>
Total	4,289


Cremated	1,241
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A photograph of the entrance to the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central. In the foreground, a low, light-colored stone wall features the words "KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY" in large, bold, dark letters, with "CENTRAL" in smaller letters below it. Behind the wall, a tall, light-colored stone column stands prominently. Atop the column is a golden eagle sculpture with its wings spread. An American flag flies from a pole behind the eagle. The background shows a grassy area and a line of trees under a clear sky.

KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY
CENTRAL

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North

Opened August 22, 2008



KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY
NORTH

As of December 2015

Interments:

Veterans	953
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Dependents	<u>186</u>
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Total	1,139
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Cremated	418
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Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East

Opened October 1, 2010



KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY NORTHEAST

As of December 2015

Interments:

Veterans	479
Dependents	<u>92</u>
Total	571

Cremated	166
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Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East


As of: December 31, 2015

- Suitable parcel of land purchased by Leslie County.
- Major improvements completed in August 2015.
- Title deeded to the state in September 2015.
- Initial kickoff meeting with State Cemetery Grant Service November 30, 2015.
- Master Plan for design to be submitted for review in January 2016.



Cemeteries Capitol Projects

Expansion Grants for FY 2017

- ▶ **KVCW** – Construction of a second columbarium wall with an additional 1,000 niches for cremations. Projected cemetery usage of 10 additional years.
Estimated federal grant - \$625,000
 - ▶ **KVCC** – Establishment of new burial sections creating an additional 3,500 in-ground plots. Also, the construction of a second columbarium wall with 800 additional niches for cremations. Projected cemetery usage of 10 additional years.
Estimated federal grant - \$4,471,000
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Burial Honors Stipend Program

As of: December 2015



FY 15 Honors

- 2,564 performed
- \$144,739 expended

FY 16 Honors

- 1,320 performed
- \$74,710 expended



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Thomson-Hood Veterans Center Wilmore, KY

- 231 Residents in house (231/285)
- 72 Admissions YTD (FY 2016)
- 89 discharges/deaths YTD (FY 2016)
- 325 Employees
- Piloting new admission process in order to reduce paperwork for veterans and their families
- New Assistant Administrator Chad Helton
- MAJ Ben Sweger USA(Ret)
Facility Administrator

As of January 26, 2016





Western Kentucky Veterans Center Hanson, KY

- 116 Residents in house (116/156)
- 31 discharges/deaths YTD FY2016
- 30 admissions YTD FY2016
- Flooring Project/Replacement almost completed
- 186 Employees

- LaDonna Scott,
Facility Administrator

As of January 26, 2016





Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center Hazard, KY

- 112 Residents in house (112/120)
- 167 Employees
- 11 Discharges/Deaths YTD FY 2016
- 26 Admissions YTD FY 2016
- Security Camera System replacement
- Floor replacement on one unit is ready to begin

As of January 26, 2016

- Neil Napier,
Facility Administrator



Radcliff Veterans Center

120 beds

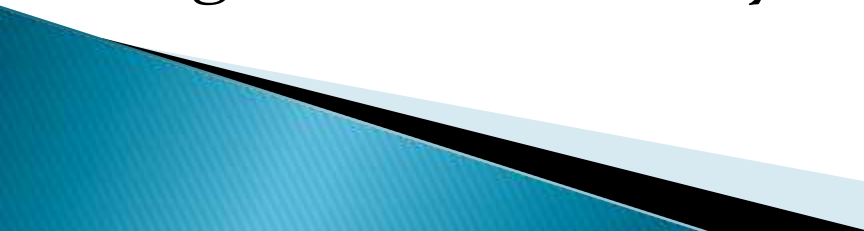
May 5, 2016	Temporary Occupancy Permit
July 5, 2016	First 3 veterans admitted for licensure
After licensure	Admit 18 more veterans for VA recognition
After recognition	General admissions open to the community

► Progress Report:

- 400 Neighborhood – finished
- Israel Ray, Administrator hired and on site along with 4 other key staff
- Office space rented from Fort Knox as a base for hiring and training new staff



Current Issues


- ▶ Spousal Admission is on hold
 - ▶ Bowling Green 90 Bed Capital Project Application – in the Legislators hands
 - ▶ On line referral form is expected to go live in February
 - ▶ Fishing Pond at THVC (donations to fund the project)
 - ▶ Magoffin County resolution passed
 - ▶ KDVA exempt from budget cuts (THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!)
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2016 Legislative Issues

- ▶ HRJ 76 - Designate the Honor and Remember Flag as an emblem of the service and sacrifice by the brave men and women of the US Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty. 27 Jan – Posted in Committee
 - ▶ HR 40 – Urge the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Kentucky's United States Congressional delegation to take the appropriate steps to get the approval and funding necessary for the construction of a veterans center in Magoffin County, Kentucky. 27 Jan – Reported favorably, 1st reading, to Consent Calendar.
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2016 Legislative Issues cont'd.

- ▶ HB 127 - Act relating to academic credit for military experience.
 - Require the Council on Postsecondary Education to develop and implement a statewide policy for public postsecondary education institutions to provide academic credit for military service and training for active duty members, Reserves, National Guard, as well as veterans of the US Armed Forces. 14 Jan – Posted in Committee

- ▶ HB 225 – Act relating to occupational licensure for military service members and veterans.
 - Require administrative bodies to issue professional licenses or certificates to military service members or veterans within two years of an honorable discharge if the training received by the service member or veteran could reasonably be expected to provide the necessary experience and skills; grant the administrative body the right to deny licensure or certification if training is not equivalent; allow appeal rights; require administrative bodies to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act. 14 Jan – Posted in Committee

2016 Legislative Issues cont'd.

- ▶ SB 52 - Act relating to alternative certification programs.
 - Allow a veteran with a bachelor's degree in any area to be issued a provisional teaching certificate if other criteria are met. – 25 Jan – Sent to Education (H)

- ▶ SB 92/FN – Act relating to veteran-owned businesses.
 - Define a veteran and veteran-owned business; to exempt veteran-owned businesses from paying filing fees to the Secretary of State's office for filing various business documents; exempt a veteran-owned business from paying the filing fee for annual reports and amended annual reports for four years after the initial registration of the business. – 19 Jan – Sent to Appropriations & Revenue (S)

2016 Legislative Issues cont'd.

- ▶ SB 104 - Act relating to special license plates.
 - Establish a Gold Star Sons and Gold Star Daughters special license plate, set fees; to require presentation of eligibility for a Gold Star Sons or Daughters license plate and to update the list of plates to be perpetually produced. Effective 1/1/17 – 19 Jan – Sent to Transportation (S)

- ▶ SB 128 – Act relating to women veterans.
 - Permit the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs to promulgate administrative regulations for the Women Veterans Program. – 19 Jan – Sent to Appropriations & Revenue (S)

2016 Legislative Issues cont'd.


- ▶ HB 183 - Act relating to disabled veteran-owned businesses.
 - Provide for a disabled veteran-owned business certification program; define “disabled veteran” and disabled veteran-owned business; require the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Contract Compliance to establish guidelines for the certification program and application process through the promulgation of administrative regulations. 14 Jan – Posted in Committee

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Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

- ▶ It is estimated that more than 600 Kentucky veterans are homeless
 - ▶ Approximately 12% of homeless adults are veterans
 - ▶ 51% of homeless veterans have disabilities
 - ▶ 50% have serious mental illness
 - ▶ 70% have substance abuse problems
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Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

- ▶ KVDA works closely with organizations such as HUD/VASH and the SSVF programs to quickly house and case manage homeless veterans once they are identified.
 - ▶ KDVA screens all veterans for possible benefits for which they may be eligible including VA benefits, Social Security, healthcare, education assistance, employment assistance, and more
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Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

Veterans Treatment and Transition


- There are several veteran treatment and transition programs in Kentucky. These facilities are grant per diem programs and work to help veterans overcome obstacles that may interfere with success once they are placed into permanent housing. Veterans may remain in these facilities for up to 2 years.

- ❖ Louisville – 144 beds with 4 female beds and 2 family units
- ❖ Lexington – 108 beds (male and female)
- ❖ Hopkinsville – 50 beds (male only)
- ❖ Pikeville – 27 beds (male only)

Please contact the Homeless Veteran Coordinator for assistance with applications for these program.


Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

Emergency Financial Assistance

- To provide a small once-time assistance to qualifying veterans to obtain or maintain housing
 - May not be other than honorably discharge, must be a Kentucky resident, meet income requirements, must show that without this assistance they will remain or become homeless, and must show that they will be able to sustain their housing or utilities in the future.
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Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

Striving to Keep Homeless Veterans Warm

- ▶ Have distributed over 600 emergency blankets to law enforcement and other emergency responders in the areas surrounding Frankfort and Lexington.
 - ▶ Delivered 200 blankets to the VFW in Radcliff for the Red Cross.
 - ▶ Donated 30 winter coats to Sheppards Hands new women veteran transition home.
 - ▶ Donated 25 coats to Leestown Homeless Veteran Transitional Treatment Facility.
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Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

Upcoming Events

- Joining Community Forces meetings
 - Feb 12 Burlington
 - Feb 15 Prestonsburg
 - Feb 16 Ashland
 - Feb 17 Lexington
 - Feb 18^h Murray (18th)

- March 3 Briefing National Guard Family Assistance in Frankfort

Homeless Veteran Outreach Program

Future:

Planning Kentucky Veterans Benefit Resource Fairs in several regions of the state for the coming summer and fall.

Work with Kentucky Housing Corporation to recruit landlords in 87 rural counties of Kentucky so we may better utilize VETT vouchers in those counties.

Emergency Blankets

Cold weather is here. KDVA has a supply of emergency blankets for the homeless. Please contact the Homeless Veteran Coordinator to obtain some of these blankets if you know of veterans in need. We also currently have hats, gloves and socks, and a few coats.



Trina Patty
Homeless Veteran Coordinator
502-352-3120

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Women Veterans Program

Latest Accomplishments:

- Western Kentucky Regional Women Veteran Conference
 - Conference held at WKU Knicely Center-Bowling Green, KY
 - Date: April 30th 8am-1pm
 - Keynote speaker Lt. Gov Jenean Hampton
 - Eastern Kentucky Regional Women Veteran Conference
 - Location and Date-TBD
 - Will be held in Fall 2016
 - Statewide Women Veterans Conference will be in Spring 2017
 - Lady Vet Connect
 - Women from the Women advisory committee established group
 - Lady Vets Connect was created to connect Lady Veterans and Supporters.
 - 1st Lady Vet Connect Meet & Greet in Lexington, KY Jan 30th
 - Will host Lady Vet Connect Meet & Greet in Northern, KY mid summer 2016
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KY Women Veterans UNITED!

2016 Calendar


Upcoming: Women Veteran Calendar

- 30 Jan-Lady Vet Connect Meet & Greet
 - 3 Feb-VA “Go Red for Women
 - 4 Feb-Women Advisory Committee Meeting
 - 12 Feb-Faces of Athena-Portrait Series for Local Military Women
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KY Women Veterans UNITED!


2016 Calendar cont'd.

Upcoming: Women Veteran Calendar

- 17 & 18 Feb-Kentucky National Guard Victim Advocates Conference
 - 20 Feb-WKU Military Appreciation Night
 - 5 March-4Th Annual Shining the Light on Military Women-NABVETS
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KY Women Veterans UNITED!

Future:

- Continue to establish the needs of women across the Commonwealth
 - Make strides in rural areas of Kentucky
 - Continue to develop & establish housing for homeless women veterans
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NEWS

KDVA Veterans Youth Council

- Assembled gunlocks for distribution for KDVA
- Passed out gunlocks at the Kentucky State Fair
- Participated in the Welcome Home Celebration for the Honor Flight Bluegrass at Bluegrass Airport
- Donation of craft items to THVC
- Christmas visit to THVC to pass out cards.

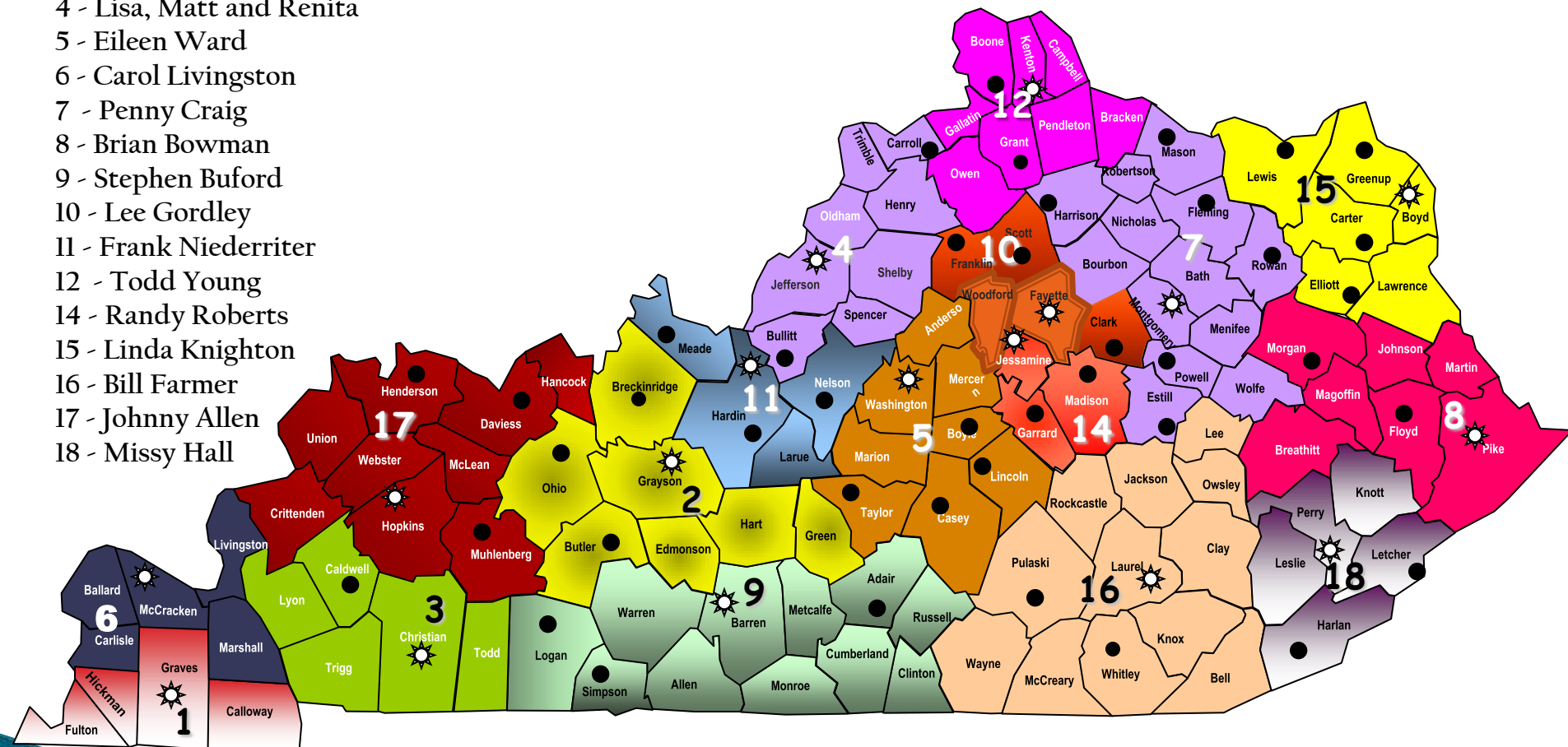


Upcoming Events & News

- Feb. 2 – Lexington VAMC Briefing
 - February 3 – Frankfort, KY: JECVO Meeting
 - February 3 – Lexington, KY: Women Veterans Health Open House
 - February 3 – Frankfort, KY: VFW Auxiliary National President Visit
 - February 15 – 19: National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week
 - March 11 – Elizabethtown, KY: Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting
 - March 19 – Erlanger, KY: VFW Joint Session
 - March 19 – Maysville, KY: KY Society Children of the American Revolution
 - April 30 – Bowling Green, KY: Western KY Region Women Veterans Conference
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Field Representatives

- 1 - Ron McClure
- 2 - Jenny Fisher
- 3 - Hope King
- 4 - Lisa, Matt and Renita
- 5 - Eileen Ward
- 6 - Carol Livingston
- 7 - Penny Craig
- 8 - Brian Bowman
- 9 - Stephen Buford
- 10 - Lee Gordley
- 11 - Frank Niederriter
- 12 - Todd Young
- 14 - Randy Roberts
- 15 - Linda Knighton
- 16 - Bill Farmer
- 17 - Johnny Allen
- 18 - Missy Hall



 Denotes VBFR Office

- Denotes VBFR Outstations

Effective September 1, 2015